

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

LISTED ON:

RECEIVED

VLR 06/21/1977

NRHP 08/24/1978

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Germanna

AND/OR COMMON

Germanna

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

8 miles northwest of the intersection of Rte. 3 and 603

☒ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Flat Run

☒

VICINITY OF

7, J. Kenneth Robinson

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Orange

CODE

137

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☐ DISTRICT☐ PUBLIC☐ OCCUPIED☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ BUILDING(S)☒ PRIVATE☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ STRUCTURE☐ BOTH☒ WORK IN PROGRESS☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ SITE☐ PUBLIC ACQUISITION☐ ACCESSIBLE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECT☐ IN PROCESS☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ BEING CONSIDERED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ NO☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. Ray Glazebrook

STREET & NUMBER

1809 William Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederickburg

☐

VICINITY OF

STATE
Virginia

22401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Orange County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Orange,

STATE
Virginia 22960**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission File 68-43,44,45

DATE

1969

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Research Center for Archaeology

CITY, TOWN

College of William and Mary

STATE

Virginia 23186

Wren Kitchen

Williamsburg,

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT

☒GOOD

—FAIR

—DETERIORATED

—RUINS

☒UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED

☒ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE

—MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located 21 miles west of Fredericksburg on Rte 3 in Orange County lies the site of historic Germanna. John Fontaine, when he visited Germanna on November 21, 1715, described the German settlement as situated on a hilltop on the south side of the Rapidan River. "We walked about the town which is pallisaded with stakes stuck in the ground, and laid close the one to the other, of substance to bear out a musket shot. There is but nine families and they have nine houses built in a line, and before every house about 20 feet from the house they have small sheds built for their hogs and hens, so that the hog stys and houses make a street. This place that is paled in is a pentagon, very regularly laid out, and in the very center there is a block house made with five sides which answers to the five sides of pales or great enclosure. There is a loop through it, from which you may see all the inside of the inclosure. This was intended for retreat for the people in case they were not able to defend the pallisadoes if attacked by the Indians."¹

In 1732 William Byrd II offers a further description of Germanna in his Progress To the Mines when he discusses his visit to Col. Spotswood. "This famous town consists of Col. Spotswood's enchanted castle on one side of the street and a bakers dozen of ruinous tenements on the other, where so many German families had dwelt some year ago....There had also been a chapel about a bowshot from the Colonel's house at the end of an avenue of cherry trees, but some pious people had lately burnt it down, with the intent to get another built nearer to their own homes."

Surviving maps identify Germanna as being located on the south side of the Rapidan River. Recent archaeological test excavations by the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology have uncovered a brick foundation approximately 90 feet in length and extending to a depth of six feet below modern grade; at this lower depth a brick tiled floor was encountered. Brick foundations of two outbuildings were also located. These remains are part of a substantial eighteenth-century plantation complex believed to have belonged to Governor Alexander Spotswood. Excavations suggest that the Spotswood mansion burned during the mid-eighteenth century and was subsequently backfilled. (Photo #1).

1. Journal of John Fontaine 1710-1719, ed. by E.P. Alexander (CWI, UVA, Press, Char, 1922)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The substantial eighteenth-century plantation complex located at Germanna, believed to have been the home of Colonial Governor Alexander Spotswood, is thought to be one of the most significant archaeological finds in Virginia. Having been burned in the mid-eighteenth century and subsequently backfilled, the cellar is a time capsule capable of providing considerable insight into the material culture of an eighteenth-century Royal Governor. Spotswood apparently attempted to recreate the elegance and sophistication of the tidewater plantation system in a rustic, remote environment when he constructed his home ca. 1724.

William Byrd, when he visited Spotswood in September 1732, called the mansion "an enchanted castle." In his writings, Byrd described the opulently furnished house and elaborately terraced garden. Spotswood, himself, in an October 26, 1732 ad in The Virginia Gazette, refers to his household furnishings as choice. The November 26, 1741 inventory of Alexander Spotswood's personal effects at Germanna, subsequent to his death in June 1740, lists an array of household equipment well worthy of furnishing an enchanted castle. The Virginia Research Center for Archaeology's preliminary archaeological investigations at the mansion site have revealed a quantity of extremely fine Chinese porcelain, reaffirming Byrd's description and relating to the inventory. A room of Spotswood's served for a time as the Spotsylvania County Courthouse.

According to Byrd's 1732 writings, across the road from the enchanted castle were the remains of "a baker's dozen of ruinous tenements...where so many German families had dwelt some years ago but are now removed."¹ This statement refers to a settlement established in 1714 by Governor Spotswood, when he placed twelve German families on that site, where he built them a fort which was, according to Spotswood, "a good Barrier for all that part of the Country."² The German workers were put to work in Spotswood's nearby iron mines and their settlement became known as Germanna.

When John Fontaine visited Fort Germanna on November 21, 1715, he wrote in his Journal that "the Germans live very miserably," along with their livestock, within a pentagonal palisade. It was at this time that the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe embarked from Germanna on their transmontane journey. A few years later these settlers left Spotswood tract in order to patent property themselves. Subsequent German migrations, in 1717 and again in 1719, ended similarly with the families departing as soon as they considered their legal obligation to Spotswood fulfilled.

The early eighteenth-century archaeological sites at Germanna offer an unique opportunity to study two dissimilar, but nearly contemporaneous, cultural components responding independently to a similar environment. As well, the Germanna area holds nineteenth-century significance as a portion of the land was involved

(See continuation sheet # 1)

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Germanna, Orange County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET # 1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

SIGNIFICANCE

in the May 1864 Civil War Wilderness Campaigns. Located nearby are the sites of the Germanna mills and ferry.

MWM

1. Progress to the Mines, in the year 1732, William Byrd, II, printed in A History of Orange County by W.W. Scott (Richmond, 1907) Everett Wadley Co.
2. The Official Letters of Alexander Spotswood, Vol. II, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, 1882

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Byrd, William, "A Progress to the Mines, in the year 1732," in A Journey to the Land of Eden, and other papers, New York; 1928.

Calendar of State Papers, Volume I.

Dodson, Leonidas, Alexander Spotswood, Governor of Colonial Virginia, 1710-1722, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1932 (See continuation sheet # 2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 120 Acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 257470 4251820
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 18 256700 4251270

B 18 257440 4250880
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 18 257180 4252040

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bordered on the west by the Rapidan River, on the south by Rte.3, on the east, just west of an unsurfaced road, and on the north by a small ravine.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ms. Martha W. McCartney and Mr. David Hazzard

May 26, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Research Center for Archaeology

DATE

253-4836

STREET & NUMBER

Wren Kitchen

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg,

STATE

Virginia 23186

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

JUN 21 1977

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Germanns, Orange County, Virginia

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PAGE 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fontaine, John, The Journal of John Fontaine, 1710-1719, ed. by E.P. Alexander
Charlottesville: Univeristy of Virginia Press ,1972.

Hening, W.W., Statutes at Large, 1882.

Henry, John, "A New and Accurate Map of Virginia," 1770.

Homann, John Baptiste, "Virginie, Marylandia et Carolina, 1714", 1714.

Jefferson, Peter and Robert Brooke, "A Map of the Northern Neck in Virginia," 1766.

Jones, Hugh, The Present State of Virginia, ed. by Richard L. Morton, Chapel Hill:
University of North Carolina Press, 1956

Madison, James, "Virginia", 1807.

Orange County Court Records .

Scott, W.W., A History of Orange County, Virginia, Richmond, Virginia: Everett
Waddey Co., 1907.

Spotswood, Alexander, The Official Letters of Alexander Spotswood, Vol. II, Ridhmond,
Virginia Historical Society, 1882.

The Virginia Gazette.

The Virginia Historical Register.

The William and Mary Quarterly Series I and II.

The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography.

Wood, John, "Culpeper County," 1821.

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Germania Orange County, Va

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During test excavations conducted at the site traditionally thought to be the location of Spotwood's Enchanted Castle, the remains of an appropriately dated substantial plantation complex was encountered. This location is depicted on the maps of John Baptiste Homann, 1714, John Wood, 1821, John Henry, 1770, James Madison, 1807 and Jefferson-Brook, 1736. The sophisticated lifestyle reflected by the inventory Spotswood is also reflected in the artifacts recovered during the test excavation. An example is a quantity of Chinese porcelain mentioned in the inventory, and as well found during testing.

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Germanna

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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Please note that according to the primary resources cited in Item 7 of the nomination form, the German village was extant on November 21, 1715 when John Fontaine visited the site and was vacant and falling into ruin by 1732 when William Byrd II visited Governor Spotswood at his Germanna home. We did not indicate the location of the mines and smelting area, as they were many miles down river.

Germanna

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We have not included an overall photograph because die to the angle of overgrowth at the site, a photograph was not really informative. Enclosed is a sketch map depicting the components receiving archaeological survey. The 120 acres nominated were intended to include the German village, (please note in Item 7 the quotation from William Byrd, II states that the village is across from Spotswood's Mansion), as well as the Germanna Mills, Ferry, and Bridge, which were the scene of considerable Civil War activity. The mills, ferry, and bridge are shown on some maps and cited in the smendment to Item 7 and as well are depicted on a map in the Official Atlas of the Civil War. You will find enclosed a site plan resulting from our test excavations at Germanna.

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale 1:24000)
Germanna Bridge, Virginia 1968
GERMANNA, ORANGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA
UTM References

066-0043

- a. 18/257470/4251820
- b. 18/257440/4250780
- c. 18/256700/4251210
- d. 18/257180/4252040

